

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 OMB-01

EUR-25 EA-11 CIEP-03 FRB-03 DRC-01 /187 W

----- 108958

R 301130Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1548

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2457

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER: CONTINUITY  
OF US FOREIGN POLICY

REF: STATE 189748

1. DURING MY ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER  
BANDARANAIKE AUG 29, WE DISCUSSED: A) CON-  
TINUITY OF US FOREIGN POLICY UNDER PRESIDENT  
FORD B) PRIME MINISTERS RECENT TRIP TO MAL-  
DIVES AND FUTURE FOREIGN TRIPS  
C) DOMESTIC SITUATION IN SRI LANKA AND D) STATUS  
OF AMB NEVILLE KANAKARATNE. THIS MESSAGE  
REPORTS ON US FOREIGN POLICY; OTHER SUBJECTS  
REPORTED SEPTELS.

2. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE SEEMED TIRED WHEN  
I CALLED ON HER BUT, NONETHELESS, INDICATED BY  
HER REMARKS AND MANNER THAT SHE WAS PLEASED  
ABOUT RECENT DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS AND HER  
FOREIGN POLICY MOVES. I SAID I HAD ASKED FOR  
APPOINTMENT IN ORDER TO REINFORCE WHAT I HAD TOLD  
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HER JUST AFTER PRESIDENT FORD'S ACCESSION

(COLOMB 2249) AND WHAT SHE HAD ALSO BEEN ASSURED OF IN MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FROM US PUBLIC STATEMENTS: THERE WOULD BE CONTINUITY IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER NEW FORD ADMINISTRATION AND THIS POLICY WAS UNDERPINNED BY GENERAL BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. WASHINGTON HAD ASKED ME TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT FORD VERY MUCH APPRECIATED PRIME MINISTERS LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO WHICH REPLY WOULD BE SENT SHORTLY.

3. I SAID I KNEW THERE WAS UNEASE IN SOME QUARTERS IN SRI LANKA OVER CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION BUT ASSURED HER THAT THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SRI LANKA. I WAS DETERMINED, AS LONG AS I REMAINED IN COLOMBO, TO CONTINUE EXERT ALL MY EFFORTS ON BEHALF THOSE GOOD RELATIONS. I WAS PLEASED WITH RESOLUTION OF LONG-STANDING MAINTENANCE OF VALUE DISPUTE AND ALSO PLEASED THAT WE WERE NOW BEGINNING TO DISCUSS WITH GSL HOW BEST UNITED STATES, THROUGH ITS NEW DEVELOPMENT LOAN, COULD CONTRIBUTE TO HER GOVERNMENTS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

4. PRIME MINISTER REPLIED SHE WAS GRATIFIED TO RECEIVE THESE ASSURANCES AND REPEATED, AS SHE HAD JUST AFTER PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION, THAT SHE WAS SORRY HE HAD BEEN COMPELLED TO LEAVE OFFICE (COLOMBO 2249). PRESIDENT NIXON HAD MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE THROUGH HIS FOREIGN POLICIES, PARTICULARLY DETENTE WITH USSR, NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PRC, CONCLUSION OF VIETNAM WAR, AND EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. PRIME MINISTER THEN SAID SHE WONDERED WHETHER PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION HAD BEEN CAUSED BY ELEMENTS IN UNITED STATES WHO OPPOSED HIS FOREIGN POLICIES AND THEREFORE WORKED ACTIVELY TO BRING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIM DOWN. I REPLIED FORCEFULLY THAT ANY SUCH ALLEGATIONS WERE BASELESS AND EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH WATERGATE-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAD LED TO PRESIDENTS RESIGNATION. PRESIDENTS DECISION HAD BEEN FORCED UPON HIM BY INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN UNITED STATES AND WAS IN NO WAY RELATED TO DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO HIS FOREIGN POLICIES WHICH WERE GENERALLY ADMIRERD

AND WIDELY SUPPORTED.

5. COMMENT: I AM SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED BY PRIME  
MINISTERS COMPLETE LACK OF PERCEPTION OF  
WATERGATE SITUATION AND HER WILLINGNESS TO  
RELATED PRESIDENT NIXONS RESIGNATION TO OP-  
PONENTS OF HIS FOREIGN POLICIES. I CAN ONLY  
SPECULATE THAT THIS IDEA MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED  
IN HER HEAD BY LEFTISTS WITHIN HER GOVT  
OR POSSIBLY BY DIPLOMATS FROM COMMUNIST COUN-  
TRIES.

6. PRIME MINISTER DID NOT RAISE DIEGO GARCIA  
ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT FORDS SUPPORT FOR DIEGO  
EXPANSION WAS GIVEN HEAVY PLAY IN AFTERNOON  
PRESS. SHE EITHER MAY NOT HAVE SEEN NEWS  
REPORT OR DECIDED IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO  
BRING UP ISSUE AT THIS TIME.  
VAN HOLLEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinml  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974COLOMB02457  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, CE, (BANDARANAIKE, SIRIMAVO)  
**To:** STATE  
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